

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO.: 05-442M
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	DETENTION ORDER
	)	
SHANE MENZEL,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

Offense charged:

Conspiracy to Import and Distribute Marijuana

Date of Detention Hearing: September 14, 2005

The Court, having conducted a detention hearing pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f), and based upon the factual findings and statement of reasons for detention hereafter set forth, finds that no condition or combination of conditions which defendant can meet will reasonably assure the appearance of defendant as required and the safety of other persons and the community.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DETENTION

(1) Defendant and two co-defendants are charged with conspiring to import and distribute marijuana from Canada to the United States. The Complaint alleges that on September 6, 2005, defendants McCluskey and Humphrey cleared a landing zone for a helicopter in a remote area of Skagit County, Washington, and then drove separately to the area on September 7, 2005,

01 meeting a helicopter operated by defendant Shane Menzel. The Complaint further alleges that  
02 vacuum-sealed bags of marijuana were off-loaded from the helicopter, at which time the three  
03 individuals were arrested. This defendant is alleged to have reported that he participated in three  
04 prior similar smuggles with Humphrey and McCluskey.

05 (2) The allegations of the Complaint depict a sophisticated marijuana smuggling  
06 operation that required careful planning and co-ordination, and the utilization of a Robinson R-22  
07 helicopter entering United States airspace without permission, flying at a low altitude in order to  
08 avoid detection. The alleged admissions by defendant Menzel describe close involvement by all  
09 three defendants in this on-going scheme. The AUSA proffers that federal agents had surveilled  
10 a helicopter drop on five previous occasions, and that other landing areas had been cleared in the  
11 vicinity as well. The access of defendants to the considerable resources necessary to carry out the  
12 scheme, and the inference that other individuals, still at large, must necessarily have been involved  
13 in the scheme, leads to the conclusion that the defendants pose a significant risk of flight as well  
14 as a risk of danger.

15 (3) All three defendants are Canadian citizens, with significant ties to their communities  
16 but no ties whatsoever to this District. Mr. Menzel is trained as a helicopter pilot. He has been  
17 unemployed since approximately January of February 2005.

18 (4) The AUSA argues that the quantity of marijuana involved in the conspiracy is in  
19 excess of 100 kilograms, and therefore invokes the rebuttable presumption against defendant as  
20 to both dangerousness and flight risk, under 18 U.S.C. §3142(e). However, the undersigned has  
21 not assumed the application of the rebuttable presumption in considering the government's motion  
22 to detain the defendants.

23 (5) The defendant poses a risk of nonappearance because he is not a United States  
24 citizen, has no ties to this District, is unemployed, and is a licensed helicopter pilot. The  
25 sophisticated nature of the alleged enterprise, including the utilization of a helicopter, also leads  
26 to that to the conclusion that this defendant poses a risk of nonappearance as well as a risk of

01 danger.

02 (6) There does not appear to be any condition or combination of conditions that will  
03 reasonably assure the defendant's appearance at future Court hearings while addressing the danger  
04 to other persons or the community.

05 It is therefore ORDERED:

06 (1) Defendant shall be detained pending trial and committed to the custody of the  
07 Attorney General for confinement in a correction facility separate, to the extent  
08 practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody  
09 pending appeal;

10 (2) Defendant shall be afforded reasonable opportunity for private consultation with  
11 counsel;

12 (3) On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the  
13 Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility in which defendant is  
14 confined shall deliver the defendant to a United States Marshal for the purpose of  
15 an appearance in connection with a court proceeding; and

16 (4) The clerk shall direct copies of this Order to counsel for the United States, to  
17 counsel for the defendant, to the United States Marshal, and to the United States  
18 Pretrial Services Officer.

19 DATED this 15th day of September, 2005.

20 

21 Mary Alice Theiler  
22 United States Magistrate Judge